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PP RUEHAG RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHLH RUEHPW RUEHROV
DE RUEHAH #1297 2731402
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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1635
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4348
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2160
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2025
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2596
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2934

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001297

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STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EEB

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/29/2018

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SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: SUPREME AUDIT CHAMBER CHAIRMAN
ORCHESTRATES FIRING OF MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

REF: ASHGABAT 1242

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires a.i. Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.
4 (B) and (D).

11. (C) Longtime, well-connected Embassy source, EU-Tacis Advisor in Turkmenistan Michael Wilson (please protect), said at a meeting on September 29 that Supreme Audit Chamber Chairman Tuvakmammot Jepbarov was responsible for the dismissal of Minister of Economy and Development Gurbanmyrat Gurbanmyradov on September 12. Wilson said Jepbarov had kompromat (incriminating material) on Gurbanmyradov and passed it on to someone who had the authority to dismiss the minister. Wilson said that Jepbarov and former Minister Gurbanmyradov (reftel) were rivals when Jepbarov was First Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, and Gurbanmyradov was Deputy Minister. According to Wilson, Jepbarov is ambitious and wants to get promoted quickly and "started to audit people instead of organizations" in his role as chairman of the Supreme Audit Chamber as a way of getting rid of his competition.

12. (C) COMMENT: Digging up kompromat on rivals and others perceived as threats is a time-honored tradition in post-Soviet political circles. In all likelihood, Jepbarov showed his evidence to President Berdimuhamedov, because it is highly unlikely that anyone else has the authority to fire a minister. END COMMENT.
CURRAN